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Schools to conduct more safety drills to prepare students

LANSING – Schools must conduct additional safety drills to ensure students and school employees are better prepared for emergencies under legislation signed into law today, said bill sponsor Sen. Jud Gilbert.

Senate Bill 1108, now Public Act 337, requires emergency drills to be conducted regularly but at random times during the school day.

“We want our children to be prepared at any point of the day for an emergency to occur, whether it be during class, an assembly, at lunch or out at recess,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “Right now students are told to follow their teacher from the classroom. Unfortunately, disaster could strike at anytime and the students and employees need to be ready to respond no matter where they are.”

The new law requires certain drills to be conducted during recess, lunch or other times when students are not in the classroom. Currently most drills are conducted while students are organized together in the classroom, leaving them unprepared if an emergency was to happen while they were elsewhere in the building.

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